



# NEWS

**For Immediate Release  
June 2, 2003**

**Draft Environmental Assessment Document for New Rifle, Colorado,  
UMTRA Ground Water Project Site Available for Public Comment**

(Grand Junction, CO)—The U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE–GJO) announces the availability of the draft *Environmental Assessment of Ground Water Compliance at the New Rifle, Colorado, UMTRA Project Site*. The draft *Environmental Assessment* provides information concerning the potential effects of the proposed ground-water compliance strategy for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Ground Water Project New Rifle site.

In conjunction with the compliance strategy, DOE will ensure that institutional controls are maintained to prevent future use of the ground water. Institutional controls protect public health and the environment by limiting access to a contaminated medium. At the New Rifle site, institutional controls include zone district changes and deed restrictions. In addition, DOE funded the extension of the current municipal waterline near the site to provide potable water in the area where restrictions are required. The site will be transferred from the State of Colorado to the City of Rifle at a future date, at which time deed restrictions will become effective. DOE will also continue monitoring ground water and surface water at the site.

The New Rifle site is a former uranium and vanadium ore-processing facility located in western Colorado about 2 miles southwest of the city of Rifle in Garfield County. The site was owned and operated by the Union Carbide Corporation from 1958, until the State of Colorado acquired it in 1988.

Contaminants of concern in ground water at the New Rifle site include ammonia, arsenic, fluoride, manganese, molybdenum, nitrate, selenium, uranium, and vanadium. The targeted compliance strategy for the New Rifle site is natural flushing in conjunction with institutional controls and monitoring.

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Reference copies of the draft *Environmental Assessment* will be placed in the Rifle Branch Library, Montrose Public Library, Glenwood Springs Branch Library, Mesa County Public Library, and DOE–GJO Public Reading Room. Copies may be requested by contacting DOE–GJO toll free at 1–800–399–5618.

DOE will host a public meeting to discuss the draft *Environmental Assessment* on Thursday, June 12, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rifle City Hall, 202 Railroad Avenue, Rifle. Any public comments on the draft *Environmental Assessment* should be forwarded to the address below no later than June 30, 2003:

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